

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 2-15 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 2, 6 and 12 are amended.

No new matter is presented by the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the original specification and, for example, in the original specification at lines 6-9 and original claim 11.

Examiner Interviews

Examiner Interviews were conducted with Applicants' Representative Eric Berkowitz and Examiner Andrew C. Lee on February 3, 2010 and February 4, 2010. The Examiner is thanked for his efforts. In the Examiner Interviews, Applicants' Representative reviewed claim 2 as now amended herein. No agreement was reached regarding claim 2, as the Examiner needed to review the claim amendments with his Supervisory Examiner.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, at item 4, claims 2 and 6 are objected to for informalities therein.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 6 have been amended from the phrase "capable of" to --configured to--.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 6 are free from this objection.

Rejection of Claims 2-8, 10 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 6, claims 2-8, 10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ichinohe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,411, hereafter referred to as Ichinohe) in view of Yamaya et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0184387, hereafter referred to as Yamaya).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is directed to a routing control method, and recites:

... calculating, by a second router, a routing capability time required to enable the routing function when the second router is configured to execute the routing function;

transmitting, by the second router ... a routing capability message including the routing capability time ...;

(hereafter referred to as the routing capability time feature.) That is, the second router calculates a routing capability time required to enable the routing function and the routing capability time is included within the routing capability message transmitted from the second router to the nodes in the local area network.

Ichinohe Reference

In the Office Action, at page 3, the Examiner acknowledges that Ichinohe does not disclose explicitly "transmitting, by the second router ... a routing capability message, notifying the routing capability time, to the nodes in the local area network..." Applicants respectfully agree with the Examiner's acknowledgment and further submit that Ichinohe is silent regarding the routing capability time feature as recited in claim 2.

Yamaya Reference

In the Office Action, at page 4, the Examiner contends that Yamaya teaches "transmitting, by the second router ... a routing capability message, notifying the routing capability time, to the nodes in the local area network ... (*'transmits a transition notification packet...'; para [0150], [0116],*" (italics in original).

Yamaya at the portion cited by the Examiner (i.e., Paragraphs [0150] and [0116], is silent regarding the routing capability time feature as recited in claim 2. These portions of Yamaya disclose that a router in the backup state transmits a transition notification packet to a router in the master state to show that the state of

the router in the backup state has been changed to the master state. (See Yamaya at paragraph [0150].) Yamaya further discloses the use of a master down timer to control switchover to a new master router. That is, in Yamaya switchover to a new master router occurs 3 seconds after the time the master down timer is restarted (from reception of an advertisement message). (See Yamaya at paragraph [0116].) Thus, Yamaya is silent regarding transmission of a time included within the advertisement message. Instead, the master down timer and advertisement timer begin counting after receiving a message, but the message itself does not include a time (i.e. a routing capability time).

Accordingly, claim 2 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claims 6 and 12

Claims 6 and 12, which include similar but not identical features to those of claim 2, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least similar reasons of those of claim 2.

Claims 3-5, 7-8, 10 and 13-15

Claims 3-5, 7-8, 10 and 13-15, which include all of the limitations of claim 2, 6 or 12, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, at Item 7, claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya in further view of Flinck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,099,326, hereafter referred to as Flinck).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 11, which include all of the limitations of claim 6, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

The addition of Flinck does not overcome the deficiencies of Ichinohe in view of Yamaya. This is because, Flinck, at the portion cited by the Examiner to teach that a router advertisement message of ICMPv6 has a routing stop time set in the lifetime field, merely discloses that a Router Lifetime should contain the frequency with which the mobile node receives information from Routing Area Updates, that no Reachable Time field should be set and that the Retrans timer contains the value that has been assigned for the Ready Timer Function inherent to GPRS Mobility Management. Flinck, however, is silent regarding "a routing capability time that is required to enable the routing function," as required by claim 6.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 11 are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ichinohe in view of Yamaya in further view of Flinck for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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